



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 23, 2013

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

CONTACT: TIM HORTY

(317) 229-2409; Cell (317) 716-4250

tim.horty@usdoj.gov

HOGSETT ANNOUNCES INITIAL RESULTS FROM FEDERAL CRACKDOWN ON INDIANAPOLIS VIOLENT CRIME

Illegally-armed felon facing federal prison as part of new effort to combat gun violence

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced today the filing of federal charges against Thomas Wilson, age 29, of Indianapolis, as part of an expanded federal effort to combat violent crime in Indianapolis. The defendant is alleged to have illegally possessed a firearm as a convicted felon, and has also been charged with possessing drugs.

“This prosecution is part of an unprecedented commitment by federal law enforcement to assist our local partners in their public safety efforts,” Hogsett said. “Working together, we are taking the worst of the worst off the streets and making Indianapolis a safer place to live and work.”

According to the indictment, Wilson was arrested by local law enforcement on April 23, and was allegedly found to be in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver. Wilson’s extensive criminal history in Marion County includes a felony aggravated battery conviction in 2005, and he is not legally permitted to possess a firearm. He was also allegedly found to be in possession of marijuana at the time of his arrest.

Wilson’s prosecution in federal court is the result of an anti-violence effort launched by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. As part of this plan, Hogsett has authorized federal agents to focus resources toward high-crime areas in Indianapolis. The U.S. Attorney's Office has appointed an experienced lead prosecutor to assist in screening every case involving guns or drugs within these troubled areas. Those cases identified as being eligible for federal prosecution will be adopted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle P. Brady, who will prosecute the case for the government, Wilson faces up to a decade in federal prison if he is convicted, as well as federally supervised release and fines. Federal law requires defendants to serve at least 85% of their prison term inside a federal correctional facility.

This new anti-violence program is an expansion of the U.S. Attorney's district-wide Violent Crime Initiative. Launched in March 2011, the VCI has produced a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges brought federally. In the year preceding the initiative, there were just 14 defendants charged with federal gun crimes by the U.S. Attorney's Office. In the nearly two years since, more than 200 defendants have been charged.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

###